



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294  
(323) 881-2401

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN  
FIRE CHIEF  
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

October 11, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE PURCHASE ORDER TO  
PRATT & WHITNEY FOR INSPECTION AND REPAIR OF TWO TURBINE ENGINES  
(TWIN-PAC) AND COMBINING GEARBOX FOR A BELL 412 HELICOPTER  
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF  
THE CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT:**

1. Authorize the County Purchasing Agent to issue a purchase order not to exceed \$198,000.00 to Pratt & Whitney for parts and services in the inspection and repair of two turbine engines and combining gearbox for a Bell 412 helicopter.

**PURPOSE / JUSTIFICATION OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The purpose of this recommended action is to enable the Fire Department to obtain mission-critical helicopter engine maintenance services from the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) through the purchase order process. Board approval of this recommended action will provide for the inspection, parts and repair services required for two turbine engines and combining gearbox, known as a "twin-pac," for a Bell 412 helicopter in the Fire Department's fleet.

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS  
ARTESIA  
AZUSA  
BALDWIN PARK  
BELL  
BELL GARDENS  
BELLFLOWER  
BRADBURY

CALABASAS  
CARSON  
CERRITOS  
CLAREMONT  
COMMERCE  
COVINA  
CUDAHY

DIAMOND BAR  
DUARTE  
EL MONTE  
GARDENA  
GLENORA  
HAWAIIAN GARDENS  
HAWTHORNE

HIDDEN HILLS  
HUNTINGTON PARK  
INDUSTRY  
INGLEWOOD  
IRVINDALE  
LA CANADA-FLINTRIDGE  
LA HABRA

LA MIRADA  
LA PUENTE  
LAKEWOOD  
LANCASTER  
LAWNDALE  
LOMITA  
LYNWOOD

MALIBU  
MAYWOOD  
NORWALK  
PALMDALE  
PALOS VERDES ESTATES  
PARAMOUNT  
PICO RIVERA

POMONA  
RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
ROLLING HILLS  
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES  
ROSEMEAD  
SAN DIMAS  
SANTA CLARITA

SIGNAL HILL  
SOUTH EL MONTE  
SOUTH GATE  
TEMPLE CITY  
WALNUT  
WEST HOLLYWOOD  
WESTLAKE VILLAGE  
WHITTIER

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The County Purchasing Agent, who administers the purchase order process, has specific statutory limitations pertaining to service contracting, and the authority to contract for services beyond a specific dollar threshold rests with your Honorable Board. The identified engine maintenance and repair service exceeds the established ceiling amount authorized by statute, and requires Board approval.

#### Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of the recommended action is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goal #1, Service Excellence, as well as Strategic Plan Goal #4, Fiscal Responsibility.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT / FINANCING**

Funding for this purchase order is available in the 2005-2006 Services and Supplies Budget for the North Regional Operations Bureau, Air & Wildland Division, Air Operations Section.

The cost of this inspection and repair will be more economical than purchasing a new "twin-pac," which is estimated at a cost of \$1.3 million dollars for replacement.

#### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS / LEGAL PROVISIONS**

Applicable provisions of State statute and County Charter give the Purchasing Agent the authority to engage independent contractors for services up to \$100,000. Contracting for services above \$100,000 requires Board approval.

#### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

Pratt & Whitney is the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) of the "twin-pacs" in our four Bell 412 helicopters. Each twin-pac consists of two turbine engines and a combining gearbox. It is a single integrated unit that is shipped to the manufacturer for inspection and fixed repair cost. Once the Fire Department agrees to have the work done, a direct sole source purchase order is obtained from Internal Services Department (ISD), and the repairs are completed.

#### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICE (OR PROJECTS)**

Approval of the recommended action will enable the Department to continue our efforts to provide fire protection and life safety services to the residents of Los Angeles County.

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**CONCLUSION**

Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors, please return copies of this letter to:

1. Los Angeles County Consolidated Fire Protection District  
Materials Management Division  
5801 South Eastern Avenue, Suite 100  
Commerce, CA 90040  
Attention: James Ealey, Chief, Materials Management Division
2. Internal Services Department  
Purchasing Division  
1100 North Eastern Avenue, Room 102  
Los Angeles, CA 90063  
Attention: Joe Sandoval, Division Manager

Respectfully submitted,

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

PMF:mr

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Auditor-Controller  
Internal Services Department  
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors